

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09466 281533Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-12 /109 W
-----013263 281549Z /50

R 281520Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7265
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORG PEPR EG XF
SUBJECT: EGYPTIANS STRESS ARAB SOLIDARITY AS ARAB
- LEAGUE COUNCIL OPENS

REF: (A) CAIRO 9378 (NOTAL), (B) CAIRO 9407 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. REGULAR ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING OPENED MARCH 27 WITH REJECTIONISTS ABSENT. FORMIN KAMEL EXTOLLED ARAB UNITY AND EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT TO ARAB SOLIDARITY, WHILE PRINCE SAUD AND AL SECGEN RIAD STRESSED NECESSITY TO RESTORE ARAB UNITY. EGYPTIANS WILL INTERPRET ABSENCE OF REJECTIONISTS AS VICTORY AND PROOF THAT THEIR POLICY BANKRUPT. SADAT KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN ON SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. ATTENDANCE. INAUGURAL SESSION OF AL COUNCIL RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE FRONT-PAGE ATTENTION MARCH 28. TWELVE FORMINS (THOSE LISTED REF A PLUS TUNISIAN) REPORTEDLY ATTENDED. PERMREPS OF SOMALIA, LEBANON, OMAN, QATAR AND PLO IN ATTENDANCE, WHILE ALGERIA, IRAQ, SYRIA AND PDRY REGRETTED. NO RESPONSE FROM LIBYA.

3. PLO. ACTING PLO CAIRO REP SAID KAMAL REPORTEDLY ATTENDED CLOSED SESSION FOLLOWING PUBLIC INAUGURAL PROCEEDINGS. THERE CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION CONCERNING KAMAL'S STATUS SINCE: "PALESTINIAN FORCES IN BEIRUT" CLAIM KAMAL DOES NOT REPRESENT PLO, BUT ONLY HIMSELF. KAMAL TOLD JOURNALISTS HERE HE HAD RECEIVED NO RPT NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM PLO, BUT WOULD WITHDRAW IF SO INSTRUCTED BY EXCOM.

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4. KAMEL REMARKS. FORMIN KAMEL STRESSED IN INAUGURAL SESSION GOE SUPPORT FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY AND GOE EFFORTS "EXERTED TO UNIFY ARAB RANKS TO CONFRONT DANGERS WHICH THREATEN THE ARAB NATION." KAMEL NOTED THAT "EGYPT WILL NEVER SPURN DESIRE OF ANY ARAB COUNTRY FOR JOINT ARAB ACTION." KAMEL DUTIFULLY PRAISED SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE, BUT AFFIRMED THAT "EGYPT WILL ALWAYS REMAIN FIRST TO CALL FOR CLOSING OF ARAB RANKS." KAMEL CRITICIZED REJECTION FRONT BUT WITHOUT VITUPERATION.

5. OTHER OPENING SPEECHES. IN COMPARISON EXTENSIVELY REPORTED KAMEL REMARKS, PRINCE SAUD'S CALL FOR ARAB UNITY GETS RELATIVELY SHORT SHRIFT: "SERIOUS AND SINCERE EFFORTS SHOULD BE EXERTED TO BRING ABOUT ARAB SOLIDARITY, AS OUR STRENGTH LIES IN OUR UNITY." MAHMUD RIAD'S OPENING REMARKS ALSO STRESSED UNITY THEME: "AT A TIME WHEN OUR DISPUTES TAKE THE UPPER HAND, THE ZIONIST ENEMY CONTEMPTUOUSLY DISREGARDS THE ARAB NATION."

6. COMMENT. WHETHER OR NOT ATTENDANCE BY ALL BUT THE REJECTIONISTS REPRESENTS VINDICATION OF SADAT'S FOREIGN

POLICY, EGYPTIANS HAVE CLEARLY DECIDED TO ADOPT THIS
INTERPRETATION. REJECTIONISTS SEEN AS DEEPLY EMBAR-
RASSED BY THEIR INABILITY TO CONFRONT ISRAELIS IN
SOUTHERN LEBANON AND GOE SPOKESMEN LIKELY STRESS
BANKRUPTCY OF REJECTIONIST POLICY. EFFUSIVE PRAISE
OF ARAB UNITY BY KAMEL SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH
SADAT'S SKEPTICISM IN RECENT OCTOBER INTERVIEW (REF B).
WE ARE TOLD SAUDIS ARE PRESSING HARD FOR SUMMIT AND ASSUME
THAT SADAT WISHES TO KEEP HIS OPTIONS OPEN BY LETTING
KAMEL, WHO PERSONALLY DEPLORES EGYPT'S ISOLATION, SPEAK
OUT. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARABS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO09466
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780134-0902
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780320/aaaaaqgc.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 025881bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAIRO 9378, 78 CAIRO 9407
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3189446
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIANS STRESS ARAB SOLIDARITY AS ARAB - LEAGUE COUNCIL OPENS
TAGS: PORG, PEPR, EG, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/025881bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014